

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] U.S. Pat. No. 4,319,737 to Waterfield discloses a valve having inlet and outlet sections of elliptical shapes that combine into a circular shape, and further having an opening in the body closed with a flange of square-inscribable shape. In general, the diaphragms of the valves in the prior art are circular and have square flanges. This causes such valves to have large sizes and considerable space requirements, particularly in the axial direction of flow. The manufacture of these valves also requires the use of a considerable amount of metal, resulting in very heavy weight and considerable costs, particularly as flow rates and inlet and outlet sleeve diameters, i.e. overall valve sizes, increase. Furthermore, particularly in hydraulically operated valves, the pressure exerted by the fluid that is piped in the pressure chamber defined by the bonnet part and the valve closing dome of the diaphragm may cause the diaphragm to bow out, particularly into the outlet sleeve port,[[--]] because no counterbalancing pressure is provided, causing the so-called balloon effect. This drawback is also dependent on the considerable length of the radius of the circular diaphragm, when seen in the axial direction of the flow, and more particularly on the long axial diameter of the outlet sleeve port opening into the flow chamber, and is particularly serious in large-size valves, operating at very high flow rates and having large diaphragm surfaces. This drawback may cause the unsupported diaphragm to be damaged, thereby leading to leaks and/or opening/closing problems, because the diaphragm is only partly resilient or is not resilient at all.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] The invention further relates to a diaphragm valve as described hereinbefore whose shape is particularly suitable to allow the use of a plastic material in the manufacture of at least the valve body.